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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

85- 3461/1

11 September 1985

Mr. Morton M. Kondracke
Chief, Washington Bureau
NEWSWEEK
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mort:

I am writing you officially on behalf of Director Casey and the CIA. I am aware that Mr. Casey has sent you a personal note, and he knows about this official communication. I would appreciate NEWSWEEK's carrying the following among its letters to the editor in the next edition.

NEWSWEEK on 16 September carried an item in its "Periscope" section drawn from an article in THE NATION which charges that the Director of Central Intelligence, Bill Casey, had intervened in a FOIA request by the Mars Company. THE NATION's charges are absolutely false. Director Casey does not know Forrest Mars, Sr., Mars did not contact Mr. Casey, nor did Mr. Casey know of nor take any action concerning a FOIA request from the Mars Company.

Had anyone at NEWSWEEK taken the time to call the Agency, he or she would have been told that we had denied the story to Jay Peterzell, the author of THE NATION's article. NEWSWEEK should have taken the trouble to verify the story before replaying it.

Sincerely,

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

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11 September 1985

Mr. Morton M. Kondracke
Chief, Washington Bureau
Newsweek
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mort,

As a personal favor I would like to understand how the piece in the current "Periscope" based on an alleged "longstanding friendship between CIA Director William Casey and Forrest Mars Sr." got through Newsweek's screening. I do not know Forrest Mars, Sr., and I never had any contact with the Mars candy company.

George Lauder's office checked this out thoroughly and so informed Jay Peterzell who, nevertheless, apparently made the allegation in the Nation and Newsweek used that for the "Periscope" piece. What I would like you to tell me is whether it is within your professional standards to run that kind of allegation from another publication without checking here and at least reflecting the denial. What you have succeeded in doing, by relying on somebody else's standard of responsibility and professional practices and, I would think, a failure to adhere to your own, is to broadcast the falsehood that I tried to shortcut the process here and wasn't able to do so.

I will appreciate hearing from you.

Yours,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey

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Politics: Getting Mad, Getting Even

When White House political director Ed Rollins leaves his post this month, he will become a political consultant at Sacramento-based Watts and Russo, and he hopes one of his first projects may enable him to settle an old score. In taking as a client Pennsylvania Gov. Richard Thornburgh, a Republican likely to run for the U.S. Senate in 1986, Rollins would also be working against incumbent Republican Arlen Specter, who has several times incurred the wrath of White House operatives. Reagan aides were incensed when Specter took the central role in forcing the withdrawal in July of William Bradford Reynolds's nomination to be associate attorney general. Their anger was compounded when Specter tried to get President Reagan to sign a letter endorsing him for re-election—a move blocked by Rollins personally. Although Specter does have his backers within the party, his status among Pennsylvania voters, especially when pitted against Thornburgh, is shaky, according to one recent GOP-sponsored poll.

Is the Pope Backing Away From Poland?

As the November synod of Roman Catholic bishops draws near, Pope John Paul II may be trying to shed his image as "the Polish pontiff." At a time when the Solidarity labor movement appears inactive and there are relatively few events in his homeland to monitor and react to, John Paul has decided, Vatican sources say, to assign many Eastern-bloc matters to his secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli. In part the move can be interpreted as a reward for Casaroli, who impressed the pope with the way he represented the Vatican at politically sensitive ceremonies held in Czechoslovakia in July. But John Paul also has a strategic reason for lowering his Polish profile, sources say: he wants the full support of the synod when it convenes in Rome to "interpret" the actions of Vatican Council II in light of his conservative views. John Paul firmed up his support among the more than 400 black bishops in Africa during his recent tour of that continent. Now he appears to be addressing the complaints of some churchmen that Poland had been too often uppermost in his mind.

Jack Kemp: Color Him Green

Normally, when presidential aspirant Rep. Jack Kemp appears on television, he wants you to stay tuned. But last month while traveling in the Philippines, he made an exception. The problem arose when Kemp and his wife, Joanne, arrived at a state dinner given in their honor by President Ferdinand Marcos. Both his necktie and her evening top were unintentionally yellow—which happens to be the color of the late Benigno Aquino's opposition party—clearly an embarrassing choice for Marcos on what was the eve of the anniversary of Aquino's assassination. To overcome the problem, engineers at the state-run TV network made a few minor adjustments in the control room, and the Kemps were surprised to see in later film coverage that their yellow clothes had become green.

North Korea Courts the Kremlin

China is growing nervous about a new North Korean "tilt" toward the Soviet Union. In the past the secretive Pyongyang regime has been careful to maintain a balance in its relations with Peking and Moscow. But now North Korea wants Soviet-built advanced weapons systems and is courting the Kremlin to get them. Last year North Korean leader Kim Il Sung visited the Soviet

Union for the first time in 20 years, paving the way for delivery of MiG-23 jets to North Korea. And at a recent celebration marking the 40th anniversary of North Korea's "liberation" from the Japanese, only the Soviets were present at a high level. In addition to arms, the North Koreans also have been seeking Soviet recognition of the impending succession of Kim's son, Kim Jong Il. The Chinese have always accepted the idea, and now the Soviets—who earlier argued that family succession violates Marxist-Leninist principles—appear to have done likewise.

Good News for a Sly and Retiring Spy

A small but galling piece of fallout from the West German spy scandal is that there is virtually nothing Bonn can do to prevent 48-year-old Hans Joachim Tiedge, the supposed spy-catcher who defected to East Germany last month, from collecting his government pension once he becomes eligible at the age of 65. Under the rigidly written laws governing such matters, sources concede, it doesn't even matter if Tiedge is eventually stripped of his civil-servant status by a disciplinary committee; he could still have his pension sent to him each month in East Germany, or wherever he is living, merely by filing a formal request.

AIDS: New Fear Behind the Iron Curtain

Even though it has yet to experience its first case of AIDS, Poland's communist government has begun a fight against the disease. Polish officials, concerned about its possible effects on the combat-readiness of the armed forces, have appointed Gen. Jerzy Bonczak, a deputy minister of health, as coordinator of the anti-AIDS campaign. And, at a time when the American military's concern about the virus is also growing, he has ordered extensive testing to ensure that the Army's blood banks are not contaminated. Prison inmates are also to be tested. Why such concern about a disease that hasn't struck yet? If an outbreak occurs, identifying AIDS carriers would be extremely difficult because few of Poland's gays acknowledge their sexual orientation. An even greater potential danger: many Polish hospitals, unable to purchase disposable syringes from the West for lack of hard currency, have been forced to reuse needles, a practice which has been known to spread the disease elsewhere.

A Candymaker Seeks Some CIA Goodies

Did the CIA bend over backward to provide the Mars candy company with commercially valuable information despite agency guidelines to the contrary? According to an article in *The Nation* magazine this week, Mars Inc. filed a Freedom of Information Act request in 1981, asking for documents about the chocolate industry in the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations—and received considerably more than the standard photocopies of the agency's extant files. The reason, says *The Nation*: a longstanding friendship between CIA Director William Casey and Forrest Mars Sr., the retired company chairman. Writer Jay Peterzell says that CIA staffers, spurred on by Casey, went out of their way to confect new charts, pictures and directories depicting Soviet cocoa imports and exports and listing Eastern-bloc candy concerns. The data could have been extremely useful to Mars—if the agency had acted faster. But not even Casey could speed up the process, and Mars didn't get its goodies until three years after its request—by which time, a former company executive says, they were of little use.

CHARLES LEERHSEN with bureau reports